Indian Air Force Aircraft crashes

*16. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Miniter of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have gone into the causes for high frequency of IAF aircraft accidents in recent years, especially those involving MIG-Combat aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the main findings about the causes of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main causes of such accidents are technical failure/defects, human error and bird strike.

Blood Banks in the Country

*17. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI PASUMPONTHA KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of blood banks in the country;

(b) what is the number of private blood banks; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to solve the problem of shortage of human blood needed for the life saving surgical operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) According to information received from State Governments the total number of blood banks in the country is 720.

(b) The number of private blood banks is 180.

(c) In view of the recent developments in Surgery, the increasing requirements of blood in the country are met from voluntary donors; replacements donors; and professional donors. Steps taken by Governments to improve the availability of blood include the following:

(i) Campaigns encouraging voluntary blood donation programmes.

(ii) Development of blood bank facilities in a phased manner.

(iii) Leading role to the Indian Red Cross Society in organising blood collection and establishing linkages with hospitals; and

(iv) Promoting rational use of blood by use of blood components instead of whole blood.

Setting up of a Medical College at Chandigarh

*18. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long-standing public demand for the setting up of a Medical College at Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not starting the same so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the availability of a large number of qualified medical practitioners in the country and in the light of the recommendations of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare not to allow opening of any new medical